

## Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 SS-15 NSC-05

NSCE-00 L-02 PRS-01 /033 W

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3491

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, CH

SUBJECT: CHINESE ARCHEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION

REF: STATE 73468 AND PREVIOUS

APRIL 2 CALL ON HSIAO TEH BY HOLDRIDGE AND PASCOE TO DISCUSS  
EXTENSION OF CHINESE ARCHEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION TO SAN FRANCISCO  
HAD FOLLOWING RESULTS:

1. SUCCESS OF EXHIBITION IN WASHINGTON: HOLDRIDGE MENTIONED APRIL 1  
NCNA ITEM ON CLOSE OF EXHIBITION IN WASHINGTON AND NOTED WE FELT EX-  
HIBITION HAD BEEN A REMARKABLE SUCCESS AND IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO  
IMPROVEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OUR TWO PEOPLES. HSIAO REPLIED  
THAT CHINESE SIDE ALSO VERY PLEASED WITH SUCCESS OF EXHIBITION,  
APPRECIATED GREAT CARE US SIDE HAD TAKEN IN PUTTING ON THE  
EXHIBITION, AND AGREED THAT IT WOULD ALSO BE SUCCESSFUL IN KANSAS  
CITY AND SAN FRANCISCO. (NOTE: NO MENTION WAS MADE OF ANY PRC  
PROBLEMS WITH NELSON-ATKINS GALLERY.)

2. EXCHANGE OF LETTERS: HSIAO SUGGESTED THREE MINOR CHANGES IN  
THE DRAFT OF THE BUSH LETTER WE HAD PROVIDED THEM YESTERDAY. HE SAID  
THEY HAD ERRED IN NOT USING THE FULL TITLE OF THE US SPONSORING ORGAN-

IZATION IN THEIR SUGGESTED ADDITION; HE SUGGESTED THAT POINT 4 BECOME  
A SIMPLE PARAGRAPH WITHOUT THE NUMBERING; AND HE SUGGESTED THAT THE  
WORDS "PROPOSED CHANGES" IN THE NEXT TO THE LAST SENTENCE BE CHANGED  
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TO "ABOVE POINTS." WE ACCEPTED THE CHANGES ON THE SPOT. HSIAO THEN SAID

THEY ACCEPTED THE LETTER IN PRINCIPLE BUT THAT HE WOULD STILL HAVE TO CHECK WITH HIS SUPERIORS AND WITH THE DEPARTMENT CONCERNED BEFORE GIVING THE FINAL APPROVAL. HOLDRIDGE EMPHASIZED URGENCY OF EXCHANGE, SAYING WE HAD HOPED TO FINISH DETAILS TODAY OR IN THE NEXT DAY OR TWO AT THE LATEST. HSIAO SAID HE WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO FINISH THIS

AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, BUT HE WOULD NOT BE PINNED DOWN ON A TARGET DATE. (REVISED DRAFT LETTER SENT SEPTEL.)

3. SIGNING CEREMONY: WE INFORMED THE CHINESE WE HAD NO PREFERENCE ON WHETHER OR NOT THERE WOULD BE A FORMAL CEREMONY FOR SIGNING THE LETTERS.

4. PRESS RELEASE: IN RESPONSE TO OUR PRESENTATION ON URGENCY INVOLVED AND STATEMENT THAT SAN FRANCISCO MUSEUM HOPED TO MAKE PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT ON APRIL 3 EVEN IF EXCHANGE OF LETTERS HAD NOT BEEN COMPLETED, HSIAO SAID FLATLY THAT CHINESE SIDE HOPED THAT NO ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD BE MADE UNTIL EXCHANGE OF LETTERS COMPLETED. TO EMPHASE HIS POINT, HE REPEATED THIS STATEMENT AT THE END OF THE MEETING. ON THE WORDING OF THE PRESS RELEASES, HSIAO SAID THE CHINESE SIDE BELIEVED THAT THE CONTENT WAS UP TO THE AMERICAN SIDE. WHEN PRESSED, HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT CHINESE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO WORDING OF EITHER RELEASE.

5. PRESS CONFERENCE: HSIAO DID, HOWEVER PICK UP THE REFERENCE TO A SPECIAL NEWS CONFERENCE IN THE SAN FRANCISCO RELEASE AND ASKED ABOUT THE SCOPE OF THE PLANNED PRESS CONFERENCE AND WHO WOULD BE THERE. HE WAS INTERESTED, HE SAID, IN WHETHER ONLY AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS WOULD BE INVITED OR WHETHER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN PRESS WOULD ALSO ATTEND. HE ADDED THAT THE CHINESE POSITION ON THE PRESS CONFERENCE ISSUE HAD NOT CHANGED FROM WHAT IT HAD BEEN IN WASHINGTON.

6. COMMENT: ATMOSPHERE OF THIS MEETING HAD RETURNED TO NORMAL AND HSIAO

SEEMED INTENT ON MAKING POINT OF CHINESE PLEASURE WITH SHOWING AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY. WE THINK HE WILL GENUINELY ATTEMPT TO CONCLUDE THE LETTER EXCHANGE IN A MATTER OF DAYS, BUT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT HOW SOON THE PONDEROUS CHINESE BUREAUCRACY CAN BESTIR ITSELF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUFFICIENTLY TO GET THE SIGNATURES ON PAPER. IN THE MEANTIME, THE MUSEUM PEOPLE IN SAN FRANCISCO HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO WAIT. WE THINK IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY ILL-ADVISED TO GO AHEAD WITH AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE FACE OF CHINESE OPPOSITION. SUCH AN ACT WOULD AT THE MINIMUM POISON THE ATMOSPHERE AND COULD CAUSE CONSIDERABLE GRIEF TO THE MUSEUM

LATER ON.

7. THE PRESS CONFERENCE ISSUE OBVIOUSLY REMAINS VERY MUCH ALIVE.  
REQUEST DEPARTMENT OBTAIN DETAILS OF SAN FRANCISCO'S  
PLANS AND INFORM US BY IMMEDIATE CABLE. IF THEY ARE INNOCUOUS FROM THE

CHINESE POINT OF VIEW, I.E., JOURNALISTS INVITED WILL CONSIST OF REPS  
OF BAY AREA MEDIA ONLY AND NOT INCLUDE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS, INFORM-  
ING  
HSIAO RIGHT AWAY WILL PROBABLY SPEED UP THE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS. IF  
NOT, WE SHOULD BE BRACED FOR A REPLAY OF THE WASHINGTON FLAP.  
BUSH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARCHEOLOGY, CULTURAL EXHIBITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** johnsorg  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975PEKING00590  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750113-0793  
**From:** PEKING  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750489/aaaaddhe.tel  
**Line Count:** 126  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION CU  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 73468  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** johnsorg  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <09 JUL 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CHINESE ARCHEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION  
**TAGS:** SCUL, CH, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006